Production and Export of Diamonds

†2835. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) the total quantity of the diamonds produced in the mines located in Panna, Madhya Pradesh every year and whether these diamonds are being exported;

(b) whether any possibility exists regarding more areas of diamond reserves in the State; and

(c) the total quantum of diamonds found in Panna mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES {SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per imformation available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) a subordinate office under the Department of Mines, diamond in Panna district of Madhya Pradesh is produced by National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) at their Majhagawan Diamond mine. The production from this mine since 1999-2000 is as under:

Production of diamond in carat

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (up to Oct., 02)
NDMC	40749.92	57544.81	81040.25	41826.61
Majhagawan Panna				
Diamond Mine				

There is no export of diamonds ffom Panna deposits. A total number of three reconnaissance permit/prospecting licence over large area have been granted for a period of 3 years by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for exploration of diamond and associated minerals in the State.The result of exploration of diamond would be known only after completion of the prospecting work.

(c) The Ministry of Steel has reported that since its inception a total of 767420.7 carats of diamonds has been produced from the Panna Mines.

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†Original notice of the quostion was received in Hindi.